

CONGRATULATING FRESNO RESCUE MISSION ON THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Fresno Rescue Mission on occasion of its 50th anniversary, and its plans for expansion. The mission has long served the homeless and downtrodden of Fresno.

The Rescue Mission began in 1949 as a non-profit religious organization to be an arm of the churches of Fresno County. Over the past 50 years, the mission has been open 24-hours-a-day 365-days-a-year helping the destitute of Fresno, with three meals a day, shelter, clothing, bedding, appliances and furniture, all free of charge.

Though it began as a "men only" organization, over the years, the mission has progressed to helping families who are in need of emergency shelter. The mission works with the Fresno County Department of Human Social Services in "Rescue the Children/Craycroft Youth" a collaborative effort to service, abused, neglected and abandoned children.

There is also a year-long live-in recovery program for men with various dependency problems. After completion of the program, a transition home provides housing, and employment as staff members of the mission. At the home, men are encouraged to save their money so they can be reunited with their families, or be able to afford their own housing.

Most important to the mission is its primary purpose, to provide love, and bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to those who have nothing left in this world. In front of the mission building hangs a sign which reads, "If you don't have a friend in the world, you will find one here."

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Fresno Rescue Mission on the occasion of its 50th anniversary. The services provided are a boon to the community, and a blessing to those in most need. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in wishing the Fresno Rescue Mission many years of continued success.

TRIBUTE TO JERRY ZREMSKI

HON. THOMAS M. REYNOLDS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 1999

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of one of Capitol Hill's most hard-working and talented reporters.

As a member of the Washington Bureau of The Buffalo News, Jerry Zremski's Washington dispatches are an important and invaluable source of information for my constituents on the activities of this Congress.

Jerry was recently named a Nieman Fellow at Harvard University, a prestigious honor afforded to only 12 journalists throughout the United States of America. Jerry will begin his

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fellowship at Harvard in the fall, at the world's oldest mid-career fellowship program for journalists.

A graduate of Syracuse University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in journalism, and American University, where he received his Master's Degree in Political Science, Jerry Zremski has distinguished himself in his profession, and I ask that this House of Representatives join me in honoring Jerry's achievement in earning the Nieman Fellowship at Harvard University.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF CARMEL CASABONA AFTER 20 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 1999

Mr. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, tonight we celebrate Carmel Casabona, who retired from Area Cooperative Educational Services (ACES) on January 22, 1999 after 20 years of dedicated service. As a committed vocational education teacher with ACES' Secondary Program and later as a Job Coach with the ACCESS program, she has worked tirelessly to assist adult clients with disabilities, and engage them in their community. It is with tremendous pleasure that I rise today to salute this incredible woman, who has been a dear friend to me and has contributed so much to the Greater New Haven area.

For more than two decades, ACES has been a crucial source of support and assistance for people with a range of disabilities. Many individuals have benefitted from the nurturing, caring environment, and innovative approach that ACES offers. From employment opportunities to residential skills, this institution is an invaluable resource for the disabled. Carmel certainly reflects these goals.

Carm's long career with ACES is characterized by a lifetime of dedication to her adult clients. Although supervising 28-30 clients, Carm carefully assessed each person's abilities, and chose the appropriate work experience. By focusing on each individual's specific needs, she has helped her clients reach their full potential, while providing positive reinforcement. She also offered each participant increased independence, encouragement and dignity.

Aside from her daily work responsibilities, Carm offered her personal time in organizing the annual Christmas party for her program participants, their families and friends. This event was eagerly anticipated every year as a time to come together to enjoy the holidays. When called upon by Carm to assist with party plans, volunteers could not refuse. Carm, through her volunteer crew, prepared all the food, provided music and hung decorations, all of which were done with tremendous energy and care.

On a personal level, I have witnessed Carm's interaction with her clients. It is easy to notice her genuine affection for them, as well as their fondness for her. She always approached her work with a compassionate heart, a cheerful smile, and a wonderful sense

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of humor. She will be sorely missed by clients and colleagues alike.

Because of this level of dedication, it is with great pleasure that I commend Carmel Casabona for 20 years of hard work and public service. I join with her daughter Tracy, her three granddaughters, family members, and friends in thanking her for caring so much for her clients, and in wishing her a very enjoyable retirement.

IN HONOR OF BARBARA KIRIE STEWART

HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 1999

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, education is in crisis today in America. That is why I think it is important to recognize an outstanding teacher. I rise today to recognize Barbara Kirie Stewart, daughter of a colleague and friend of mine, James C. Kirie. Mrs. Stewart teaches at Brentwood Academy in Tennessee where an endowed chair for history has recently been established in her name. This honor could not have been bestowed on a more deserving or dedicated woman, one who truly understands the joy of giving—to her students, her friends and family, and to future generations.

The endowment chair lets the rest of the world know how integral Barbara is to Brentwood Academy. Mrs. Barbara Stewart came to Brentwood Academy in the fall of 1972, in time to see the first class graduate the following spring. She brought with her a B.A. degree from Lindenwood College and the gift of making history come alive through her effective classroom teaching style.

Barbara's work with the Youth in Government program and as the founding sponsor of the R.O. Beauchamp chapter of the National Honor Society are just some of the many community enrichment activities with which she has involved herself. Barbara's devotion to students and education has taken her through 25 years as the History Department Chair at Brentwood Academy. Along the way, she also earned an M.A.T. from Vanderbilt. Those who have known Barbara in the classroom have discovered qualities that cannot be captured: an enthusiasm that stamps her presence into their memories forever.

Mrs. Barbara Stewart's former students say it best:

I became a teacher because of your inspiration. Thank you for all you did for me as a student and all you have inspired me to do as a teacher.

I can still hear your voice and recall the enjoyment of learning history from you.

You taught me to always ask why, not just who and when. That has made all the difference.

Yours is the one class from my high school days that continues to capture my imagination and still sends me to the bookshelves scrambling for more information.

No teacher in high school or college taught me as much as you. No teacher taught me how to learn as well as you. And no teacher was ever as hard as you either!

Every once in a while there is a teacher who, with contagious enthusiasm, is able to

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impart knowledge and show genuine interest in her students, thus earning their affection and respect in return. Thank you for being one of those rare teachers.

The longer I live, the more I realize that your hard work, dedication, and selfless service has enriched my life in countless ways.

Mr. Speaker, the Barbara Kirie Stewart Endowed Chair for History preserves the legacy of academic achievement lived out at Brentwood Academy through Mrs. Barbara Stewart—an exemplary citizen whose excellence in teaching is unsurpassed.

TRIBUTE TO UNITED BROTHERHOOD OF CARPENTERS AND JOINERS OF AMERICA, LOCAL UNION NO. 433

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 1999

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, Local Union Number 433. Local 433 is celebrating their 110th anniversary.

On May 11, 1889, 12 carpenters were granted a charter by the United Brotherhood, forming Local 433. This small group of 12 has grown significantly in membership, to its present total of 435 members.

The impact of Local 433 is highly visible in the Belleville community, as Local 433 has been instrumental in the construction of Belleville Area College, the St. Clair County Courthouse, and Scott Air Force Base, among others. Local 433 is currently working on the expansion of the MetroLink light rail system.

From its inception to today, the men and women of Local 433 have made invaluable contributions to the community, through their contributions to charity and civic events. One of Local 433's greatest achievements is its apprenticeship program. This four year program gives young carpenters the chance to learn from the community's established carpenters. There are currently 44 apprentices in this program, which was established over thirty years ago.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Local Union Number 433 as they celebrate their 110th anniversary.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK GREEN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 1999

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained this morning, and missed roll call vote #108. Had I been present I would have voted "Aye."

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CONGRATULATING THE RAPE COUNSELING SERVICE OF FRESNO ON THEIR 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Rape Counseling Service of Fresno, Inc. (RCS), on occasion of its 25th anniversary.

Rape Counseling Service is a victim advocacy agency. Its mission is to alleviate the trauma due to sexual assault and/or child molestation, to educate the public and to raise the level of awareness regarding rape and child abuse prevention.

RCS made its start with a small core of volunteers meeting in a dorm room at California State University Fresno. It now has a staff of 33 members, and 52 volunteers who aid in crisis intervention, prevention education, a 24-hour hot-line, hospital and court advocacy and individual counseling.

For the past seven years, RCS has been ranked the number one rape crisis center in the state of California by the Office of Criminal Justice Planning, and for the past six years, has been the number one funded agency by Fresno County. The U.S. Department of Justice has named the RCS Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) as one of only two programs in the state to be listed in Promising Practices, a report to improve the criminal justice system's response to violence against women.

Over the years RCS has established a strong working relationship with the Fresno Police Department, the Fresno County Sheriff's Office and the District Attorney's office. It also interacts with other community-based organizations: Sanctuary, House of Hope, Human Services Coalition, Fresno County Child Abuse Prevention Council, The Fresno Policy Academy and Comprehensive Youth Services.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Rape Counseling Service of Fresno on the occasion of its 25th anniversary. The services provided are invaluable to the well-being of the community and victims of assault. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in wishing RCS many years of continued success.

THE VOLUNTEERS OF RADIO VISION: 19 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 1999

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise today to pay tribute to the volunteers of Radio Vision of Orange County, New York for their 19 years of dedicated service. Radio Vision Volunteer Day this year is Saturday, May 15th. Radio Vision is a closed circuit service for the blind and sight impaired of the Mid-Hudson region of southeastern New York.

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Over 600 blind and virtually handicapped listeners are informed of local events, news, sales, and a variety of other information only by volunteers.

Oftentimes, we take the gift of sight for granted. With the convenience of being able to watch the television or read the newspaper to learn about the world around us, we have little reason to think about the world around us in any other way. However, for the blind, the world of television and radio is not an option. For the blind residents of the Mid-Hudson, turning on the radio provides an equal alternative to the paper and the TV.

Over the past 19 years over 105 dedicated volunteers have kept Radio Vision running for the more than 600 who have no other option. These people have given their time, their hearts, and their voices to those in need. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have been given the opportunity to speak about the commendable deeds of those at Radio Vision and I invite all of my colleagues to join in praising their devoted work in serving the blind.

JOHN WESLEY A.M.E. ZION CHURCH "THE NATIONAL CHURCH OF ZION METHODISM" CELEBRATES 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 1999

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in saluting the John Wesley A.M.E. Zion Church, "The National Church of Zion Methodism," on the occasion of their 150th Anniversary.

Mr. Speaker, the John Wesley A.M.E. Zion Church was established in the nation's capital during a period when free black Americans began and expanded a major effort for self-expression, self-esteem, and freedom. Free blacks established their own churches after they became dissatisfied with their treatment in white-controlled churches, treatment which included their segregation in religious services and disqualification from holding church offices and preaching. Founders of John Wesley experienced this treatment, and were led to leave churches that were discriminating against them.

Led by John Brent and John Ingham, a group called the "Little Society of Nine" withdrew from Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church which was under the ministry of white leaders. They met in the home of John Brent at 1800 L Street, NW and formulated plans, which culminated in the Organization of John Wesley Church in 1849. At that time, John Wesley was a dependent church which selected its own locations and ministers. One member of the group, Martha Pennington, organized a "Woman's Aid Society," and raised \$300.00—the greater part of the down payment of \$349.00 required to purchase the church site at 1120 Connecticut Avenue NW. It took two years to build the church. The congregation, led by Rev. Abraham Cole, the first minister, moved into the new church in 1851. In that same year, the Board of Trustees and the